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Potatoes are at present plenty in the markets, and selling at a price not too high, in proportion to the rent of land.

The hint given in last month's report, to those who had raised their potatoe crops after the few nights of hard frost, appears now to have been a seasonable one, as the writer of this report has since seen large heaps examined, which had many fros-ted roots in them, and if suffered to remain, would have materially injured the whole.

#### COMMERCIAL REPORT.

The quantity of foreign linen imported into Britain, may be estimated by the following account for 1810, of those imported into the port of London, as extracted from the London commercial list. The value affixed is on guess, and may be far wrong.

35,000 pieces of cambrick, supposed at £2.....	£70,000
3,000 .....lawn, (32 yards long).....4.....	12,000
52,000 .....linen, check.....3.....	156,000
14,000 Cwt. of linen yarn.....6.....	84,000
9,000 Hundred ells canvas, Hessens	
45,000 Do. German linen	
32,000 Do. Russian linen	
86,000 Do. at 1s. 6d. per ell, or £7 per Hundred,	645,000
	<hr/>
	£967,000

If the imports of Hull, Leith, and all other places should be equal to London, it would appear as if two millions sterling were paid for this article to other countries, an amount probably more than the export from Ireland. The greater part of these linens from the continent are shipped for the West Indies, after being warehoused, lying under bond in England; and a duty of 15 per cent, is, by the act of last year charged on ex-portation. Irish coarse linens are intitled to a bounty of three half-pence per yard, on exportation, which estimated at 12 per cent, and added to the duty of 15 per cent, makes a difference of 27 per cent, in favour of Irish linens.

A plan has been in agitation in this country, to petition the lords of trade to increase the duty on foreign linens to 50 per cent, and to prevent their being bonded and warehoused in Britain. The policy of this measure may be well doubted. If the duty be raised too high, the re-action in raising the prices of our coarse linens is to be dreaded, while greater facility would be also given for smuggling foreign linens from the United States of North America, into the West Indian islands; and Irish linens thus raised in price, would have to meet a severe competition with the smuggled linens in that market. In the memorial to the lords of trade, on this subject, offered for signature, some expressions against Bonaparte, as the *despot of Europe*, were introduced. They are irrelevant in a memorial entirely relating to a matter of trade, and do great injury by keeping up that irritation against the French, which has already produced so much mischief to these islands. Bonaparte acts with vigour, as an enemy; this is to be expected. Abuse is an unmanly mode of attacking him, and only fosters our malignant passions. To enter on the question, who is pre-eminently the despot of Europe, would exceed our present bounds. One of the rival powers is powerful by land, and the other by sea: both exercise their power to the annoyance of the other; to the mutual injury of their respective countries; to the hurt of neutrals, and in violation of the principles of justice. The hands of our government are not sufficiently clean, to justify us in upbraiding Bonaparte for his system of tyranny.

Brown linens have considerably advanced in price, notwithstanding the dull sales in the white state. The flax turns out very coarse, and in consequence, the average value of linens in every market, is less than in former years. The approaching market in Dublin will probably be extremely dull, principally owing to a want of purchases for America, which in our unsettled relations with that country cannot be expected.

The following statement of the cotton trade in England, has been received from intelligent correspondents in Liverpool; and we trust will be acceptable to our readers, as giving a view of that trade in our sister country.

"Our future prospects are connected with many circumstances so changeable in their nature, and they will be governed so materially by political events, either unforeseen, or the effects of which we cannot fully estimate, that our conclusions will be necessarily involved in much uncertainty. A review, however, of the transactions of the last year, may afford some data, enabling us to ascertain how far the means of consumption may be proportioned to the extent of our supplies. Upon a reference to a statement of imports, it will be found, that the quantity of cotton imported into Liverpool, in 1810, is about 320,000 bags, being about 55,000 more than we received in the preceding year. Our arrivals from the United States in 1809, were 124,000 bags, and, in 1810, about 198,000, which is an increase in our supplies from thence, of 74,000 bags; but, on the other hand, our importations from all other places are 19,000 packages less than in 1809. Our stock, exclusive of what was held in the manufacturing towns, was, on the 1st of January, 1810, about 75,000 bags, and is now supposed to be not far short of 145,000, so that the addition which it has received, is greater than the excess of our import. Upon the supposition that these particulars are as accurate as the nature of the case will admit, it appears that the quantity taken out of this market, weekly, during the last year, may, upon an average, be about 4,500 to 5,000 bags, after making a deduction for the probable increase of the stock, in the possession of the dealers and spinners, above what they held on the 1st of January, 1810. We may further observe, that 568,000 packages have been entered at the various ports in Great Britain, in 1810, which exceeds the receipts of 1809, by 124,000 bags; and if we take the total stock, at the commencement of 1810, with the import of that year, the aggregate will be nearly 700,000 packages. ~~On this amount, it is calculated, that during the same period, 300,000 bags have been manufactured, and about 30,000 exported, which leaves a total stock of 370,000 bags and serons, at the beginning of 1811.~~ This quantity, after making a reasonable allowance for the comparative smallness of the Brazil and East India bags, is considered amply sufficient for twelve months' consumption, even if it should proceed in a ratio proportioned to that of 1810. From this statement it would appear that there is a prospect of a further accumulation of cotton in this country, unless our supplies should be diminished, or a more extensive demand be experienced for twist and manufactured goods. It is, however, to be apprehended, that the effects of the late commercial embarrassments, not soon to be surmounted, and the continued want of disposable funds, (which many still appear, but too sensibly, to experience,) will, with the largeness of our stock, operate unfavourably upon our market. Should those sections of the non-intercourse law, prohibiting the introduction of our manufactures, take effect, and our exclusion from the continent of Europe be rigorously enforced, we shall then be deprived of two great sources of demand, while the supplies of the raw material, continuing free and unrestricted, will accumulate to an extent to which our own consumption, although confessedly great, and annually increasing, cannot be expected to bear an adequate proportion. This view of the subject, although discouraging, seems to be suggested by the existing state of affairs; but we would willingly hope that there is a better prospect before us, if the belligerents, returning to a sense of justice, and to the course which a sound and liberal policy should dictate, withdraw the restrictions so long imposed upon neutral commerce. The continental markets being, in that case, re-opened, the supplies which they would receive from the United States, would tend greatly to diminish the magnitude of our imports, while, it is possible, that the obstacles, now presented, to the admission of British manufactures, might, at the same time, be partially removed."

The orders in council, since the receipt of the president's proclamation, having become a subject of increased interest, a memorial was, in consequence, presented to ministers, describing the urgency of the case, and requesting an early disclosure of their intentions, as the continuance of our export trade to the United States must no depend upon the repeal of the measures in question. No reply has yet been received to this application, nor does it appear that any very sanguine hopes are now entertained, that our government, constituted as it is at present, will speedily abandon that system, which, as they have so long and so strenuously maintained, might

exist, until the grounds of retaliation are unequivocally removed. Our expectations, therefore, of an early and favourable change of measures, chiefly rest upon the prospect of a change of men and system.

In this state of uncertainty, intelligence of an important nature has been received in Paris papers of the 27th ult. From the annual *exposé* of the state of the French nation, it would appear, that the complete and virtual repeal of the Berlin and Milan decrees is still *conditional*, and will depend upon the precarious revocation of the orders in council, or upon the *th line of policy* which the American government may pursue. This important document is dated the 10th ult, and addressed to the Emperor, by M. Champagny, who, in advertizing to the commercial policy of Great Britain, makes use of the following words, "Your Majesty will persevere in your decrees, so long as England persists in her Orders in Council. You will oppose to the maritime blockade, the continental blockade; and to the plunder on the seas, the confiscation of English merchandise upon the continent. It is my duty to acquaint you, that there is henceforth no hope of bringing back your enemies to more moderate ideas, but by persevering in this system."

A letter has also been addressed to the president of the council of prizes, in which it is observed, that, in consequence of the American government having engaged to cause its rights to be respected, all cases pending, relative to the seizure of American vessels, subsequent to the 1st November, shall not be decided upon according to the principles of the Milan and Berlin decrees, but shall remain suspended, being, in the mean time, held under sequestration, till the 2d February next, when, in consequence of the United States having fulfilled their engagement of causing their rights to be respected, such vessels, with their cargoes, shall be restored to the rightful owners.

Exchange on London has through this month continued in Belfast, at  $8\frac{3}{4}$  to 9 per cent; and in Dublin, at  $8\frac{3}{4}$ , 9, and  $9\frac{1}{4}$  per cent. Discount on bank notes has latterly risen in Belfast, to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  per cent, in exchange for guineas.

#### NATURALIST'S REPORT.

*From December 20, 1810, to January 20, 1811.*

Unite, illustrious nymphs! your radiant powers,  
Call from their long repose the vernal hours.  
Wake with soft touch, with rosy hands unbind  
The struggling pinions of the western wind :

In phalanx firm the fiend of frost assail ;  
Break his white towers, and pierce his crystal mail ,  
To Zembla's moon—bright coasts the tyrant bear,  
And chain him how'ing to the northern bear.

Melt with warm breath the fragrant gums, that bind  
The expanding foliage in its scaly rind ;  
And as in air the laughing leaflets play,  
And turn their shining bosoms to the ray ;  
Nymphs ! with sweet smile each opening flower invite  
And on its damask eyelids pour the light.

DARWIN.

AMONG the various phenomena which nature is daily presenting, one which annually occurs, has been little noticed, this is the flowering of plants at particular seasons, and so fixed is the law by which they are bound, that human ingenuity has not yet been able to break this immutable decree; the snow-drop cannot be made to delay its flowering beyond the usual period for snow, without appearing by the shortest delay greatly injured, nor can the spring flowering Crocus's be made to flower in the autumn, or the autumnal flowering ones in the spring, and it is only after many years of propagation, that plants from a country where they have been accustomed to an earlier spring, or those from the southern hemisphere, accommodate themselves to this climate.

Many valuable and beautiful plants might be introduced from the southern extremity of America, and Van Diemen's land ; but although the climate is analogous to